

Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study - Draft Interim Report

In August 2001, the Corps of Engineers restarted the navigation study of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway, re-directing the study in line with recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). On May 13th the Corps is distributing a draft Interim Report on the restructured study to stakeholders. The Interim Report provides a history of past study activities, presents the purpose of the restructuring, describes initial plan formulation activities including establishment of goals and objectives, and addresses implementation issues. The report provides a blueprint for moving forward with the feasibility study to ensure the waterway system continues to be a nationally treasured ecological resource as well as an effective transportation system by seeking ways to:

- Reduce lock congestion,
- Achieve an environmentally sustainable system, and
- Address related ecosystem and floodplain management needs.

The restructured study and the Interim Report are being accomplished under a new spirit of collaboration among the stakeholders of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System. The draft Interim Report can be viewed at <http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/umr-iwwsns/> The final Interim Report will be completed in July 2002.